

Evening Telegraph

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864.

AMUSEMENTS.

BRASS VERSUS TALENT.—The PATRONS OF THE CHEMIST STREET THEATRE IN DOUNT.—TRAGEDY OF THE SEVEN SISTERS.—NEW SCENES AND STYLIC CUTS.—Last week we noted large posters announcing that Mr. Nicol McIntyre, principal light comedian of the Royal Haymarket Theatre, London, would appear as "Lord Dundreary," in the new scenes which were to be introduced in the drama of the Seven Sisters. As we have been a constant reader of foreign theatrical news for the last three years, we thought that there must have been some mistake in this announcement. As we have read, Messrs. Buckstone and Compton have been the low comedians, and Messrs. Howe and Farren the high comedians at the Haymarket Theatre for a long time. Mr. Soherin is in his second year as "Lord Dundreary" in this same theatre, and recently, not having succeeded as well in the burlesque of *David Garrick*, he has returned to his great impersonation of "my noble lord." Being thus impressed with the comic features of the Haymarket, it is any wonder that we were astonished to read that the "principal light comedian" of that theatre was in our city, and would give us his great impersonation of "Lord Dundreary" in his room in *James' Folly*.—The audience of the well-executed cut of the fastidious old master in the face at every corner, we determined not to forgive so great a theatrical treat as we were offered. The principal comedian of the Royal Haymarket would give us a glorious triumph, with an opera-glass as free from dust as a Bridgeman wreath; we took an humble position as the Chemist Street Theatre last Monday evening, and with a spirit of the most decided independence awaited the appearance of the luminary from over the raging sea. The first act, over which we had so often before enjoyed a hearty laugh, "Dundreary" and the rest of the crew by the Haymarket. Before our imagination arose a man greater than Soherin, the great original an impersonator of the hopping, leaping, senseless, soporific, and delirious scenes in comparison with whom Soherin was the mere nothing. In our giddy heart we also saw a Haymarket Theatre empty and its manager frantic, because the "principal light comedian" no longer had a room in the house.

The Lee repairs his Broken Railroads. The facility with which General Lee repairs his ruined roads, have been torn up by our cavalry raiders, is accounted for by facts, the truth of which is undoubtedly. General Lee has, in conjunction with several English railroad engineers, organized a corps of large supplies of materials which have been received from abroad, and duplicates of all important bridges are also on hand.

With this agency and those means, the damage which the rebels have suffered, especially in the way of supplies, is quite certain that the Rebels were able in a marvelously short space to put into running order both the Virginia Central and the Lynchburg roads. It can hardly be claimed therefore that the enemy's communications are to-day in any respect seriously embarrassed.

We could say much on this subject of Mr. Nicol McIntyre and his "Lord Dundreary," but he has only arrived in this country, we will consider his miserable impersonation with this admiring eye. The Royal Haymarket Theatre is still in want of a "principal light comedian." He had better secure the situation if possible.

The first act dragged its slow length along, and the curtain fell with a thud, which suggested the importance of the individual who would reveal to our gaze on its second rising. Time slowly by, and the curtain rose. Mr. McIntyre appeared! Oh! oh! how he did!

were spoken, and worse acted—who would have thought that "Dundreary" could have lived into such a state?

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The character of "Lord Dundreary" is simply the caricature of an idea. He has no existence in the world, except as the creation of Mr. Soherin. The attempts of delineation of such an idea—embodiment, he can be good only so far as he successfully imitates Soherin. Mr. McIntyre has neither the wit nor the talent to imitate such an impersonation.

Miss Kate Baker, as "little Lord Dundreary," made up very well, and acted with an ardent gusto in her introduction with the stupidity of her costume. It is to be hoped that the little girl's historic talents will be fully developed in the course of her career.

We do not think that the *Seven Sisters* have been improved, however, by the introduction of new scenes. As for the additional dialogue by Mr. Steele, we are surprised to find that he has written a story which could write up so pointlessly. The skating scene was very ineffectively done on the first or two or three evenings, having but one redeeming feature in it, and that the drowning of *Hebe* in "Dundreary."

The scene which underwhelmed the "Lord Dundreary" has greatly damaged the reputation of the new *Seven Sisters*, and we advise them to cut their acquaintance altogether. No drama, if not taken in consideration of the time, has ever had such a successful run at the *Chemist* as the *Seven Sisters*. Taken as a whole it has been well produced, and barring the occasional absence of *Hebe*, it is a picture of beauty. A little fault could be found with the cast of characters, and the *Seven Sisters*, Miss Goultney, Katie Baker, Mrs. McDonald, Hugh Ward, D. Donaldson, and Lennox have all acquitted themselves very creditably. We must not fail to notice a scene in the "house" in the rehearsal of the great *Elwin*, in form, in manner, in the great *Elwin*, and gave very good imitations of the guttural successes, and subdued howls of that singular tragedie.

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